

Remarks

Applicants have amended and canceled claims, and added new claims 34-38. Support for Applicants' amendment can be found, for example, with reference to FIGS. 4, 5 and 7, and corresponding paragraphs in the present application. No new matter has been added to the application by virtue of the present amendments.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 22, 23, 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baba, U.S. Patent No. 6,313,521 in view of Dahl, U.S. Patent No. 6,051,888; claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baba in view of Dahl as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Jimarez et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,407,334; claims 27 and 31-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Baba in view of Dahl and Glenn et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,562,655; and, claims 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Baba in view of Dahl and Glenn as applied to claim 27, and further in view of Jimarez.

Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to more clearly distinguish Applicants' claimed invention over Baba, Dahl and Jimarez. Support for Applicants' amendment can be found, for example, with reference to FIGS. 4, 5 and 7, and corresponding paragraphs in the present application.

Baba, Dahl, Jimarez, individually or in combination, fail to disclose Applicants' claim 1, as amended, or claims dependent thereupon. Baba, Dahl and Jimarez all fail to disclose a "plurality of conductive structures" as claimed by Applicants. Rather, Baba, Dahl and Jimarez disclose a single, unitary "stiffener" (i.e. Baba's "auxiliary board 10", col 7, lines 15-24; Dahl refers to a "seal 14 or 46", col 3, line 19; and, Jimarez refers to a "stiffener 26", col 2, line 18 and FIGS. 1-3).

Therefore, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and submit that the rejections to the claims have been overcome.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing remarks and amendments, all of the claims now presented are believed to be in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding rejections be withdrawn and this application be passed to issue at an early date.

The Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at the number listed below if, in the Examiner's opinion, such a phone conference would aid in furthering the prosecution of this application. A fee for a two month extension of time is due by virtue of this response. If the PTO determines that any other fee is required, please charge Applicants' Deposit Account, 09-0456.

Respectfully submitted,

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